

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02634 081220Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-03 EUR-12 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5049

INFO SECDEF WASHDC/OASD/ISA

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR/ECJ4/7

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 2634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SU

SUBJECT: JOINT STATE/DEFENSE SURVEY TEAM: INITIAL MEETINGS

1. SURVEY TEAM LAUNCHED ITS MISSION IN AUSPICIOUS FASHION DURING INITIAL ROUND OF TALKS WITH SUDANESE COUNTERPARTS ON AUG. 6. MEETING CONVENED AT SUDANESE ARMED FORCES GHQ UNDER DIRECTION OF DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, MAJ/GEN ABDUL MAJID KHALIL ENGAGED TEAM IN EXTENSIVE DIALOGUE ON CHANGING POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS IN NORTHEAST AFRICA, SOVIET GOALS, SUDANESE THREAT PERCEPTIONS, AND GENERAL EVALUATION OF SUDANESE DEFENSE DEFICIENCIES.

2. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY DURING CANDID, HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES WERE SUDANESE CONCERNS WITH SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH LIBYA, ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA, AND UGANDA. SUDANESE, HAVING TERMINATED THEIR OWN MILITARY TIES WITH SOVIET UNION, SUFFER SENSE OF ISOLATION AND CONCERN RE THEIR ABILITY TO MEET MINIMUM ESSENTIAL SELF-DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. PROBLEMS COMPOUNDED BY DEADLINING OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AS A RESULT OF SHORTAGES SPARE PARTS.

3. AT ONE POINT IN EXCHANGE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OPINED:
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02634 081220Z

QUOTE MODERATE LEADERS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD ARE WATCHING CLOSELY TO SEE HOW US AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS RESPOND WHEN WE THROW THE RUSSIANS OUT. SHOULD THIS MODERATE GOVT. FALL AS A RESULT ITS DECISION, THE WILL OF THE WESTERN WORLD MAY BE FOUND WANTING. UNQUOTE

4. TEAM PROMISED LIST OF SUDANESE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS BY

CATEGORY AND BY PRIORITY. HOWEVER, IT ALREADY CLEAR THAT MILITARY TRAINING WILL BE HIGH ON LIST. POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING UNDERSCORED BY FACT THAT ALMOST ONE-HALF OF SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICERS PRESENT WERE GRADUATES OF U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS.

5. TEAM INFORMED THAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR AUG. 8. SUBSEQUENT VISITS PLANNED TO SERVICE COMMANDS, AS WELL AS EXTENSIVE FIELD TRAVEL TO PORT SUDAN, DAMAZIN, KASSALA, JUBA AND ATBARA. SUDANESE MILITARY OFFERING FULL COOPERATION BECAUSE OF RAPID USG RESPONSE IN ORGANIZING AND DISPATCHING SURVEY TEAM, AS WELL AS ANTICIPATION THAT CRITICAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS WILL BE MET EXPEDITIOUSLY.

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